

SLA shells PLO bases

SIDON, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli-allied militiamen shelled Palestinian military positions in South Lebanon Monday and threatened to hit refugee camps if resistance fighters do not retreat from positions they acquired four months ago.

Police said the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia shelled the new positions in the hills of Baslaya, eight kilometres east of the port city of Sidon. No casualties were reported.

Antoine Lahd, commander of the 2,500-strong SLA, threatened to shell Sidon's refugee camps of Mieh Mieh and 'Ain Al Hilweh if the guerrillas do not withdraw from Baslaya.

The threat was reported by the SLA's Voice of the South radio station. No deadline was set.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing rules, said Baslaya's hills command the road linking Sidon and the town of Jezzein on the northern tip of Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Baslaya was controlled by units of the Lebanese army under Michel Aoun. The regu-



Resistance fighters fire at Israeli and South Lebanon Army positions in South Lebanon in a confrontation last week. Resistance attacks

mounted by Palestinian as well as Lebanese fighters are a regular occurrence in South Lebanon.

lars withdrew after a meeting in February in Tunis between Aoun and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman

Yasser Arafat. PLO guerrillas punched out from 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh Mieh and seized Baslaya after a

confrontation between Aoun and Syrian-backed militiamen broke out in Beirut and its environs last March.

Kabul seeks formal U.S. request for journalist's release

KABUL (AP) — The Afghan government said Monday it must have a formal letter from the U.S. government requesting the release of an American photographer captured after entering the country with guerrillas.

Tony O'Brien, who was on assignment for Time-Life Inc., was arrested June 8 in Kabul at a hideout used by the U.S.-backed guerrillas who are trying to overthrow the Soviet-supported government.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the Afghan government had decided in principle to release the 43-year-old photographer. "But we

will need a letter from the American government requesting us to release Mr. O'Brien," Amani said. "We hope the American consul officer who is in town is carrying such a letter, which should also authorise her as the representative of the American government."

Renny Smith from the U.S. embassy in New Delhi arrived in Kabul Sunday to oversee O'Brien's release.

Smith said she would prefer not to comment on the Afghan demand.

"I was told everything was ok. In fact, I have booked myself to return (to New Delhi) on Tues-

day," she said. Diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Afghan government appeared to be using O'Brien as a pawn in an effort to force the United States into issuing a statement that could be construed as recognising President Najibullah's government as legitimate.

A French photographer and an Italian photojournalist captured by government forces were freed last year, but only after their governments formally requested their release and dispatched senior officials to Kabul.

The clemency pleas by the

French and Italian governments were widely publicised by Kabul as a show of official international recognition.

The United States withdrew its ambassador from Kabul in protest after Soviet troops entered Afghanistan in 1979 to prop up a faltering Marxist government. The American embassy remained open, but with scaled-down operations, until it closed last January in the final days of the Soviet withdrawal.

Other major Western nations also closed their embassies, citing fears of rapidly deteriorating security after the Soviets left.

Israeli army, Palestinians battle for control of 'liberated' village

By Nicholas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

SALFIT, Occupied Jerusalem — For nearly a year, Salfit was a "liberated" village.

Palestinian flags fluttered from light poles. Palestinian activists patrolled the streets, anti-Israeli slogans covered the walls and popular committees did the work of city hall.

No longer. At dawn, on July 5, Israeli army troops stormed the West Bank village of 5,000. The troops reopened army-run government offices, which had been attacked and burned by protesters in January.

"This is a test case. We went in because Salfit had been portrayed as a main centre of the intifada," said Colonel Udi.

Udi, who identified himself only by first name under military custom, heads the army's "civil administration unit" in the area.

He said he planned to reopen the village medical centre, reconnect telephones, restore postal and agricultural extension services and get road construction restarted.

"The first goal of the intifada leaders has been to cut the ties between the Israeli authorities and the people," he said. "If the economic support to these people is greater, maybe they will be less radical towards Israeli authorities."

The Israeli officer said he hoped for a restoration of normal life in Salfit as an example and influence on the smaller, neighbouring villages that look to the larger village for services.

Since the start of the 19-month Palestinian uprising, Salfit was largely ignored by the army. The village is only 30 kilometres northwest of Jerusalem. But it is located in rocky hills far from major highways and Jewish settlements, isolated at the end of a single, winding road.

Then, last January, Palestinians forced all government offices to close in Salfit. The activists put up their symbols of defiance: red, black, white and green flags in the town centre with a map of the would-be Palestinian state.

Popular committees were organised by activists aligned with the Fateh faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Communist groups set up underground schools, medical services and street cleaning services.

Salfit became a microcosm of the independent state that many Palestinians hope to achieve.

"There is no higher voice than the voice of the intifada," read one slogan scrawled on a wall that had been painted and repainted by the opposing sides.

Rafaat, 29, a blacksmith on a main street, said there has been little resistance to the army takeover because about 200

Palestinian activists fled into the surrounding countryside to avoid arrest. "We were liberated for a few months. But now there is more tension because at any moment a soldier can stop you or arrest you," said Rafaat, who declined to give his full name for fear of reprisal.

Signs of the protests are still visible. Burnt tyres and scorched stones partially block one entrance to the village. Ahmad, a 25-year-old grocer, said soldiers patrol frequently, but that small acts of defiance continue. The previous night, youths put up about 100 flags, he said.

A soldier guarding the new military encampment, flying the blue-and-white Israeli flag, disputed the claim.

He said there were only two flags and that "the town is so quiet now that we go on patrol with just our berets and no helmets."

Meanwhile, about a dozen Palestinians gathered at the "civil administration" offices. One man said he wanted an entry permit to the West Bank for a relative who lives in Jordan. Another said he wanted a travel document to return to his job in the Arab Gulf.

Yet another came to pick up his identification card, seized during a search-and-arrest raid. The man, head wound bandaged, said he had been injured by the Israeli soldiers.

All were kept waiting for hours, even though a reporter who entered the encampment found two army officers sitting alone in their offices. "Let them wait for a while," said the guard with a shrug.

Bassam Abu Maadi, a 37-year-old doctor, said Palestinian activists and the army were carefully watching each other to see what happens next.

He said the rebellion would continue. "It will not stop in Salfit as long as the intifada continues elsewhere in the West Bank. It will not stop until there is some hope offered for the future," Abu Maadi said.

He said three Salfit residents had been shot to death and about 50 wounded, and about 250 detained at one time or another during the uprising.

Abu Maadi said arbitrary actions and collective punishments had left their residue of resentment against Israel.

He recalled that after a Jewish settler was killed in the West Bank in early June, soldiers came to his house, broke the porch lights and smashed a front window.

"I came downstairs and opened the door. An officer hit me in the face without warning or comment. He then ordered me to go to the school where everyone was being rounded up," recalled Abu Maadi.

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Iraq says Iran not serious for peace, should not get arms

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein denounced Iran Monday for what he described as bad faith in peace talks and warned other countries not to sell it arms, saying this would encourage Tehran to launch an "adventure."

Speaking on the 21st anniversary of the coup which brought the Socialist Baath Party to power, Hussein said: "Giving Iran weapons, in any quantity or of any type...encourages (it) to...commit an adventure which threatens the region's security and stability."

The Soviet Union, one of Iraq's main arms suppliers in the eight-year Gulf war which halted with a ceasefire last August, agreed last month to boost Iran's defence capabilities. It gave no details of the help it would give.

Diplomats said Baghdad was angry at the rapprochement between Moscow and Tehran, which also included cooperation on industrial and energy projects.

Hussein said Iran's Islamic fundamentalist rulers had "show no tangible readiness to enter into real... negotiations to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace."

Four rounds of U.N.-sponsored peace talks between Iran and Iraq have made little headway. Iran says Iraqi troops still occupy 2,600 square kilometres of its territory while Iraq says the border Shatt Al Arab waterway, its outlet to the Gulf, must first be cleared of war debris.

Hussein said Iraq sought lasting peace and would reject any settlement that would "consecrate the state of no war and no peace."

Hundreds of thousands of people were killed in the war, which devastated the economies of both countries, he said.

Lebanon was "the most painful wound in the current Arab situation," he said.

In his 22-page address he expressed "sincere support" for an Arab League committee trying, so far unsuccessfully, to mediate an end to the 14-year-old crisis in Lebanon.



Saddam Hussein

He praised the 19-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the recent formation of the Arab Cooperation Council, comprising Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and North Yemen.

Turning to domestic issues, the Iraqi leader praised the flourishing military industries and reconstruction projects launched in war-ravaged cities after the ceasefire halted the war with Iran. He cited in particular pro-

jects completed in the southern cities of Basra and Fao, which had been levelled in the war.

He praised the uprising, saying it underscored the Arabs' rejection of "plots designed to lead our people to despair."

He said the ACC launched in February "reflects the awareness of plots being hatched by powers harbouring ill-intentions toward our people."

On the military industries, he said: "Our defence capabilities have been boosted to the extent that will make our enemies think hard before launching any attack against us," he said.

Iraq is driving hard to build up its own arms industry. It is already building surface-to-air missiles, T-72 tanks and artillery guns based on Soviet designs.

Although these largely involve assembling kits provided by the Soviets, the Iraqis are developing their own production lines and eventually hope to manufacture domestically produced weapons.

They are negotiating with the Soviets, French and British to build combat aircraft under licence to build up their own aerospace industry.

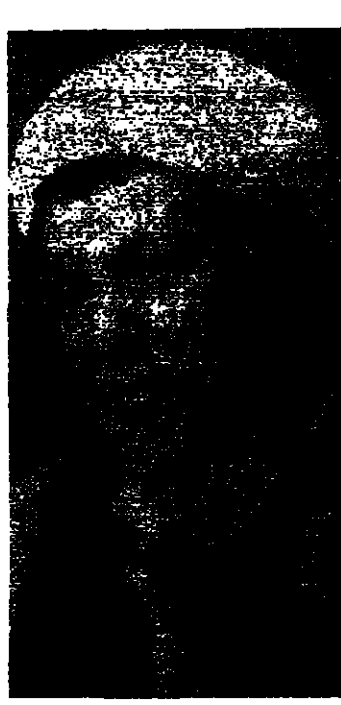
Rafsanjani: No export of revolution

NICOSIA (AP) — Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is likely to become Iran's next president, says Tehran has no intention of exporting its fundamentalist revolution, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Sunday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rafsanjani as telling the radical Jomhuri Islami daily in an interview that Iran would continue to promote Islam but "this doesn't mean interference in the affairs of others."

"We will also not seek hegemonism... we do not want to strain relations with the countries which would like to have healthy ties with us," he said in a wide-ranging interview published Sunday.

Rafsanjani's remarks indicated that Iran is anxious to allay fears it is committed to establishing Islamic regimes in other Muslim countries.



Hashemi Rafsanjani

idential election to be held July 28.

He is a close political ally of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, also considered a moderate, who was elected as Iran's supreme leader after the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini June 3.

Rafsanjani said in the interview that Islam would remain a corner-

stone in Tehran's policy-making but made it clear that promoting Islam was a matter of words, not action.

"We will say our words to the world and its Muslims... among the duties the revolution has placed on our shoulders is to convey the divine message," he said.

He reiterated earlier statements that Iran would steer a political course that was "neither East nor West."

"We will under no circumstances let the revolution be influenced by the demands of East and West," he said.

Rafsanjani also admitted Iran was critically short of technical experts and managers needed to develop the economy. Thousands of skilled Iranians have left the country and educational standards have declined during the years of revolutionary fervor and the eight-year war with Iraq.

"We particularly suffer from an acute shortage of researchers," he said. "Our quantitative condition is not good, and there are many talents being wasted due to the poor level of education."

He noted that industries were running at only 30-40 per cent of capacity because of severe shortages of "materials, energy or parts."

Algerian National Assembly debates reforms

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's National Assembly has opened an extraordinary session to further debate sweeping economic and political reforms launched after last October's riots.

Deputies were due to discuss a proposed new information code, a draft electoral law and joint venture legislation designed to attract foreign capital, an assembly official said.

All are potential landmarks in Algeria's evolution since last October from a one-party socialist state to a multi-party democracy with an increasingly liberal economy.

Last year's riots over deteriorating economic conditions led President Chadli Benjedid to promise reforms enshrined in a new constitution adopted by referendum last February.

The 295-seat chamber convened an extraordinary summer

session to complete discussion of reform laws begun during a three-month spring session that ended July 3.

The information code is expected to guarantee freedom of expression and some measure of autonomy to the country's media which has been tightly controlled by the government and ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) since independence in 1962.

Information Minister Mohammed Ali Amar has said the law would allow political groups other than the FLN to set up their own newspapers.

But FLN secretary chief Abdul Hamid Mehri announced last month the country's two largest circulation dailies, Al Chaab in Arabic and Al Moudjahid in French, would remain under the FLN.

The assembly has already adopted a law on political asso-

ciations that sets ground rules for the creation of new parties.

The draft electoral law proposes a modified form of winner-take-all balloting that could be tested in local elections late this year.

The draft joint venture law, if passed, "would for the first time allow foreign investors to hold a majority share in partnerships with Algerian state enterprises."

Algeria wants foreign investment and credit to help it overcome a heavy foreign debt service and revive an economy badly hit by falling oil prices early in the 1980s.

Fundamentalists freed

Algeria has freed 14 Islamic fundamentalists convicted in 1987 of attacks against the state, a human rights activist said Sunday.

day.

Miloud Ibrahim, president of the Algerian human rights league, told Reuters they were freed by presidential decree on the occasion of 'Eid Al Adha.

They were among about 70 Islamic fundamentalists arrested in 1986 after a pitched battle with security forces. Their leader, Mostapha Bouali, was killed during the battle.

Ibrahim said the 50 to 60 fundamentalists still in jail were the only prisoners of a political nature left in Algeria.

Bouali's supporters were given sentences ranging from several years in prison to death, but the death sentences were never carried out.

The 14 freed were among those with the lightest sentences. "I hope the rest will also be freed," Ibrahim said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
17:05 Sea Hunt
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
19:10 Agricultural programme
19:45 Programme review
20:05 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Le Monde Est a Vous
19:40 News in French
19:45 News in Hebrew
20:05 News in Arabic
20:30 Paul Daniel's Magic Show
21:10 Charlie Chaplin
22:00 News in Arabic
22:30 Wish Me Luck II

PRAYER TIMES

05:45 Fajr
06:37 Sunrise
12:42 Dhuhur
16:22 Asr
19:47 Maghrib
21:19 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swifish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 622306
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821544

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair with northwesterly moderate winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 18 / 29
Aqaba 24 / 39

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deserts 19 / 34
Jordan Valley 22 / 37

Soviet ballet troupe mesmerises audience in Jerash

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — An estimated 5,500 people sat in silence on the massive steps of Jerash's South Theatre for over 1½ hours this Saturday and Sunday mesmerised by the spectacle before them. The spectacle before them was of course a performance by the Leningrad company "Choreographic Miniatures," one of the world's most famous ballet theatre groups.

Established in 1966, the company assumed the name of Choreographic Miniatures. The company's director at the time 1. Yacobson introduced many different kinds of miniatures. The solo and composition themes Yacobson used were often taken from painters, sculptors and writers, such as Rodin, Chagall and Blok. The programmes expanded and today one of the groups' most popular solo performances is a piece entitled "Sheherazade."

After receiving a "very warm welcome" in Jordan in 1983, when they gave seven performances to packed houses at the Royal Cultural Centre, the troupe was anxious to return to Jordan according to Ninel Petrova, who is the troupe's chief coach and a former prima ballerina of the Kirov Ballet Company.

Unfortunately for the audience at Jerash several pieces included in the original programme, had to be changed at the last moment due to a technical error — nearly all of the troupe's costumes were flown to Belgrade instead of Amman.

Professor Askold Makarov, the troupe's artistic director for the past fifteen years, said that nearly half of the 43 dancers that came to Jerash could not perform because of the costume incident.

Larisa Volkova, the ballerina who was to dance the solo in Sheherazade, said that the dancers were very upset. "We had left such a good impression on Jordan

in 1983, we wanted the public to know that we were still as good. Then this mix up happened. It distressed all of us a great deal. Such a thing has not happened to us before."

Although some members of the audience remarked that there was "something wrong about the costumes" and some "noticed the change in the programme." Others said they had "noticed nothing wrong" and found the performance "wonderful," "great" and "exquisite."

Makarov commented that the moon, the fresh air and the Roman columns in Jerash had given the troupe's performance a special touch of romance.

The audience at Jerash were described as very pleasant and encouraging by the director and the dancers. "We felt the audience was very sincere in their reactions. They knew when to stay silent or clap or laugh. We felt our audience was quite mature and understood the art of ballet," said Petrova.

Makarov was especially pleased by the audience's reaction because "we know this is a conservative Muslim society and I was pleased to see that the audience respected and appreciated our art. It was really a great honour to perform in Jordan again."

The company has travelled around the world on tours, including Arab countries such as Iraq, Syria, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. Makarov feels however, that since the presidency of Mikhail Gorbachev, the company along with all other Soviet institutions have enjoyed greater freedom and better international relations on cultural as well as political levels.

In the past there were many well publicised defections of famous Soviet performers which included top ballet dancers such as Mikhail Barishnikov and Rudolf Nureiev. According to Petrova "defections are no longer



The famous Soviet ballet theatre company Choreographic Miniatures during a performance of Sheherazade

necessary since Gorbachev came into the presidency. Now if a Soviet dancer wants to dance with a foreign ballet troupe all he has to do is sign a contract."

A well known Soviet ballet dancer, Andreas Lespa of the Bolshoi Ballet has signed a contract with an American ballet company and another Alina Asimuratova, from the Korov Ballet has signed a contract with a British company.

Nureiev and Barishnikov are expected to return to the Soviet Union this fall to perform in their homeland for the first time since the two dancers defected to the United States over a decade ago.

Dancing with the Leningrad company is Vladimir Kim who won the first prize at the international ballet competition in Varna earlier this year. "I am proud of all my dancers, not only Kim, because he received the first prize, but all 43 of them. They are special. All of them are real, profound and very subtle professionals. They are masters of different styles and what is most important, they can speak the lan-

guage of choreography... They speak the language of dance. At Jerash I noticed dance needs no translation. It is a language understood by all audiences. But only a really good dancer knows how to convey the message," said Makarov.

According to Makarov the company is not to be called avant-garde, nor traditional but rather a bit of both. The group does "not stand still as a symbol of an undying beauty but responds to everything new without abandoning the past."

The company will give performances at the Royal Cultural Centre on June 18 and 19 before returning home to Leningrad. The costumes which until Monday night were still in Cairo will hopefully arrive in time to help the Leningrad ballet company bewitch Jordanian audiences once again.

Expatriates start paying honour tax

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian expatriates were reported paying a \$50 "honour tax" as endorsed by the fifth Jordanian expatriates conference earlier this month without awaiting an official government law, according to Labour Minister Jamal Bdour.

The minister said that the Ministry of Labour, which is taking charge of the contributions is referring the collected sums to the Central Bank of Jordan. So far, the minister noted, the expatriates have transferred \$1,400, and 100 Saudi Riyals which, he said, came from expatriates living in the Gulf countries and Australia.

The fifth Jordanian conference decided on a set of measures to help Jordan through its present difficult economic situation.

Apart from the \$50 honour tax, the expatriates decided that each one of them should transfer a minimum of \$100 to their own accounts in the Kingdom on a monthly basis.

Europe to continue backing Jordan's efforts to develop agriculture

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The European Community (EC) countries will continue their support for Jordan's endeavours to develop agriculture and attain self-sufficiency in food production, the EC delegate in Amman, Christian Falkowski, said Monday.

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Falkowski told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the EC is linked with Jordan through a number of agreements which took effect in 1977 aiming to expand cooperation between the two sides in economic, trade, financial, industrial and agricultural fields.

The EC delegate referred in particular to an agreement signed between the two sides last April and designed to help Jordan carry out soil survey and classification projects through a grant of four million European Currency Units (ECU) nearly JD 2.35 million.

He said that the agreement was part of the EC's drive to help develop rural areas in Jordan and provide sufficient basic information about

natural resources needed to help planners to work out programmes for maximum benefit of the land.

According to Falkowski, almost eight per cent of Jordan's overall exports go to the EC countries and that nearly 35 per cent of the Kingdom's imports come from EC nations.

He said that these rates are liable to increase in the future, thanks to continued cooper-

ation in all fields. Falkowski said that the EC supports the newly formed Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen.

He said that the economies of these countries are bound to develop through closer cooperation between them on the one hand and between the ACC nations and the EC countries on the other.

In a statement to Petra last March Falkowski praised the economic measures adopted by the Jordanian government to introduce reforms and pledged EC's continued support for the Kingdom.

Jordanian pilgrims begin returning home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian pilgrims who last week performed pilgrimage rites in Mecca have now started their return voyage home.

According to reports in the local press the pilgrims would first stop at Medina, the second holiest city for Islam, before making the trip back to Jordan.

A report in Sawt Al Shaab daily said that Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat has received a cable from Prince Nayef Ibn Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's minister of interior, informing him of the Saudi government's decision to exempt Jordanian pilgrims from paying any fees for entry into or departure from Saudi Arabia. The departure fee stands at 28 riyals.

The report said that the decision to exempt the pilgrims from this fee resulted from talks between Khayyat and Prince Majed Ibn Abdul Aziz, the governor of Mecca and minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

According to the report, all the Jordanian pilgrims will have arrived in Medina from Mecca in the coming three days.

Nearly 15,000 Jordanians registered with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to perform

this year's pilgrimage rites in Mecca and Medina.

Arrangements for their travel to and from the holy places and their accommodation in Saudi Arabia were conducted through the Ministry of Awqaf, in cooperation with the Saudi government and local transportation companies.

Meanwhile, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that some of the pilgrims have already reached Jordan. These included some pilgrims from Palestinian land occupied since 1948 for which the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs had provided accommodation facilities in the Jordan Valley.

The Petra report said that the first convoy of these pilgrims will leave for occupied Palestine Friday.

In a separate development, the Public Security Department (PSD) announced Monday that King Hussein Bridge across the River Jordan will be closed for normal travel on Friday, July 21, except for the pilgrims returning to their Palestinian homeland.

A PSD statement urged all travellers except pilgrims to refrain from going to the bridge terminals Friday.

Touqan seconded to AACO

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former Royal Jordanian (RJ) Vice President for Public Relations Muntaz Touqan has been seconded for nine months to the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) effective June 24, according to a news item published in the latest issue of RJ News received by the Jordan Times Monday.

In his new position, Touqan will use his experience and expertise in strengthening the organisation's present operations, especially in information and public relations among the Arab carriers.



Muntaz Touqan

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

UAE PRESIDENT CABLES GOOD WISHES: United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayyan Monday cabled good wishes to His Majesty King Hussein while his plane was flying in the Jordanian airspace. In his cable, he wished the King good health and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

TAWJIHI RESULTS: Minister of Education Abdullah Nsour was quoted by the local press Monday as saying that the results of the Tawjihi examinations will be declared in the coming few days. The minister was also quoted as paying tribute to the teams of teachers who were involved in marking the papers and preparing the results.

VISITORS TO SAUDI ARABIA: The Public Security Department has asked all Jordanian citizens planning to visit Saudi Arabia to attach photos of accompanying children to cards issued by the Civil Status and Passport Department so that they will not be forced to return from border posts. (Petra)

FATAL INCIDENTS: On the second day of Eid Al Adha, which was Friday July 15, two 15-year-old boys drowned as they were swimming in the Wadi Al Arab reservoir in Irbid Governorate. A report in Sawt Al Shaab daily also said that one man was killed when a pick-up truck overturned near Irbid during the Eid Al Adha holiday. Al Dustour daily reported that 15 persons suffered from food poisoning in the Deir Alla area and were admitted to Salt Hospital for treatment in the past week. (Petra)

NEW ROADS IN KOURA DISTRICT: A total of 49 kilometres of roads were opened in Koura district during the first half of 1989. The roads opened will provide services to 30,000 dunums of arable lands. (Petra)

NEW PARK IN AIN AL BASHA: A four-dunum public park has been created at Ain Al Basha township at the cost of JD 15,000. (Petra)

SOUTH MAZAR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS: Preparations for the south Mazar municipal elections are underway. The election committee Monday began preparing lists of voters while the committee chairman urged concerned citizens to register their names no later than August 6. The election is scheduled on Oct. 25. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ An exhibition of posters which show the history of puppets at the French Cultural Centre.

FILMS

★ A scientific film entitled "The Story of Man's Voyage to the Moon" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
★ A German film entitled "The Bread of the Early Years" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

Supply Ministry to have more say in market control

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government is working on amendments to the supply law designed to grant the Ministry of Supply wider authority to control the local market and to refer violating merchants to court, Minister of Interior Salem Masaadeh was quoted as saying Monday.

At the same time, the minister said in a statement published by Al Dustour Arabic newspaper, the police and Ministry of Supply teams will follow up a search campaign throughout the country in a bid to flush out all hidden food supplies in violation of the Ministry of Supply regulations.

The minister, who was commenting on the arrest of 110 merchants found to have violated the supply law, said that their trial by the military court is now underway.

The merchants were apprehended shortly before the Eid Al Adha feast following raids by police and supply officials on warehouses where they

found several tonnes of consumer goods and basic foodstuffs of which there was a severe shortage in the local markets.

According to Masaadeh, severe punishment will be imposed on those who try to manipulate prices and on profiteers.

The report said that Masaadeh chaired a meeting during the past week to discuss, amendments to the supply law and quoted Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayoub, who attended the meeting, as saying that the majority of merchants were strictly abiding by the law and that only a limited number of merchants and ordinary citizens were involved in a number of supply violations.

Ayoub said that the campaign to flush out the consumer goods stored in warehouses will continue. He noted however that the country has foodstuffs sufficient for nine months, and there was no need for the public to hoard any commodities.

According to the minister of



Salem Masaadeh

supply, the ministry is currently establishing a plant at Jweideh south of here to cut and pack in plastic and nylon bags various sizes and weights of frozen meat imported from New Zealand.

This meat, he noted, will be sold to the public through 100 centres around the country, the minister added.

Referring to poultry meat, the minister said that Supply Ministry warehouses contain large amounts of imported poultry



Ibrahim Ayoub

meat which will be sold in the local market when there is a shortage of locally produced poultry meat.

In the coming week, Ayoub noted, the Ministry of Supply will announce a tender for the importation of 3,000 tonnes of frozen poultry meat. In the meantime, he said, the ministry is helping the local poultry farms to promote their production by providing animal feed and bran at subsidised prices.

Argentinians tango nights away at Jerash

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Argentina's first participation at the annual Jerash Festival was a tremendous success according to audiences who attended the Sur Tango Groups performance on July 15 and 16. The group, composed of ten dancers and musicians, gave two-hour performances to audiences that averaged 1,500 people each night.

The groups founder Jorge Aravena is an Argentinian who has lived in West Berlin for the last five years. Along with Bernd Madus, the groups' principle musician, Aravena formed the group in 1984.

The tango dance, song and music have both Argentinian and German origins. The tango musical instrument, the bandoneon, was invented in 1864, by the German Heinrich Band, from whom the instrument takes its name.

The tango dance evolved in the 1880's in Buenos Aires where the Spanish tango merged with the 'milonga,' a fast sensual Argenti-

nian dance, which was also influenced by the Cuban 'habanera' dance.

In the early years of this century an Italian travelled to Argentina taking the bandoneon with him and thus the instrument was introduced to the dance.

By 1915 the tango became a craze in fashionable circles in Europe after the first tango music was written by reputable composers in 1910.

The first tango music was spirited and gay but by the 1920's the lyrics became melancholic.



Jorge Aravena during one of his performances

The tango step likewise evolved from early exuberant steps to smoother ballroom steps.

According to Aravena "we have made the music and songs contemporary." The lyrics are mostly sad and lament the social problems created by big city life. "There is an incredible feeling of loneliness that people who live in large cities are experiencing. That's what we talk about in our songs."

The group is associated with the Berlin International Institute of Comparative Music Studies, a 25-year-old institution which documents and promotes non-European music.

According to Gilda Lampmann, a cultural administrator from the Berlin International Institute of Comparative Music Studies, who accompanied the tango group to Jordan, "the group is happy to be here in Jordan and very excited about the groups participation at the festival. Our visit to Jerash was arranged by the director of our institute Dr. Touma, who is of Arab origin, and we are grateful to him and the festival organisers for making this trip possible."

Machus was pleased with what he saw as the enthusiastic reaction of the audience whom he described as, "very much into tune with our beat." A spectator, who was obviously into the music just said, "they danced and danced, they danced the night away. At the end of the evening I thought I would get up on the stage and tango with them."

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE WATER AUTHORITY
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
TENDER NO. 37/89/SF
SUPPLY OF BLACK STEEL PIPES AND FITTINGS

1. The Water Authority of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the Water and Sewerage Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of Black Steel Pipes and Fittings.
2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Black Steel Pipes and Fittings.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the documents at the office of the President of the Water Authority, Nabulsi Street, Jebel Al-Hussein, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 680100. Telex 22439 JO.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address and the payment of non-refundable fee of JD 300.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount(s) specified in Section V Schedule of Requirements, and must be delivered to the above office not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on Saturday 19/08/1989.

Eng. Mutazz Belbeisi
Secretary General
Water Authority

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1977

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Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Remember Sharaf's 'tarsheed'?

IT WAS the late Prime Minister Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf who first coined the word "tarsheed" (rationalisation) in Jordan's eco-political jargon and had called on Jordanians to observe its call for sanity in spending. That was nearly a decade ago. Imagine, if you please, if the country did in fact heed such words way back then! Instead many Jordanians viewed such a flash of yellow light from Sharif Abdul Hamid with cynicism. Others regarded it with contempt and ridicule. Now with the benefit of hindsight all of us in Jordan would readily concede that had Jordanians heeded such an early warning, the country would probably not be in the economic and financial mess it finds itself in now.

Of course, the concept of "tarsheed" as used by the late prime minister signified rationalisation in spending. That call for prudence in spending was probably incomplete in the sense that the message was addressed more to the people of Jordan than to the state apparatus. We all know now that the government was just as guilty as the people in spending beyond its means and that

had the government given a good example on restrained expenditure right from that early date, most probably much of the economic and fiscal difficulties that the Kingdom is encountering now could have been avoided.

Still, all such qualifications would not diminish the import of the alarm clock that was struck by Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf almost ten years ago. Although not an economist by profession, the late prime minister was able to see the dangers that lay ahead for the country if Jordanian style of spending and life, both private and official, continued as it did then. Curiously enough, the slow down message was made at a time when the country was at the peak of its prosperity and when economic expansion had reached unprecedented levels. All signs then indicated that the Jordanian ship can sail at full speed ahead with no apparent reason to slow down the heated economy.

What prompted Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf to ask the country to stop and think about its spending habits, even at that very early stage, is still perplexing now as it was then. Only few people, who

were privy to his inner thoughts, can offer an adequate explanation for his prognosis of gloom along the road ahead. Others who knew him less would rely only on his proven intellect and common sense as the basis for his long-range projections. Clearly the Jordanian train was moving too fast for its own safety and common sense would dictate prudence and rationalisation. Abdul Hamid Sharaf apparently sensed that the country would sooner or later fall into the trap of over-confidence in economic and fiscal planning. Unfortunately, he did not live long enough to have a permanent impact on expenditures in the country, and after his death things continued as they always did in the past — as if nothing could possibly go wrong.

The moral of this writing is that Jordan had ample warnings in the past that unless fiscal and economic hemorrhage stops, the country would sooner or later encounter difficulties. As Jordan and Jordanians chose not to believe the late prime minister, the least all of us can do now is to pay tribute to the man who sounded the alarm about impending results nearly ten years ago.

Algerians face political, economic challenges

Editor's note: On July 2, the Algerian National Assembly passed a law that allows the creation of new political parties outside the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN). The assembly also adopted a law on prices that reduces the role of the state in the economy. The following article, reprinted from the June 23 issue of the London-based Middle East International, focuses on the situation in Algeria on the eve of the adoption of the two laws.

By Francis Ghiles

EVER SINCE the bloody riots last October which engulfed Algiers and major cities in the west of the country in the worst violence since independence in 1962, and the popular endorsement of reforms which call for a multi-party system and the end to the country's all-out commitment to socialism which followed in last February's referendum, North Africa's largest country has all but vanished from world headlines.

There have been occasional outbreaks of violence since October '88, such as the riots in the eastern border town of Souk Ahras last month, and many strikes, most notably at the oil refinery in Arzew, which have halted output for weeks on end. But this relative though tense calm masks a continuing and often fierce debate between those who want to put into practice the reforms offered by the new constitution and the many, who for ideological reasons or because they want to hold on to the advantages gained over 25 years of single FLN rule, are doing all in their power to thwart President Chadli Benjedid. The absence of any forum for, let alone tradition of, reasoned debate does not help, but, understandably, people are often more intent on pouring out long silenced grievances than in engaging in constructive discussion.

The riots in Souk Ahras, for instance, were prompted by the publication of the list of beneficiaries of very scarce new housing units. Nine hundred families were chosen out of a waiting list of 7,400, 2,000 of which were on the priority list. Accusations of favouritism were quick to fly and by the evening of 5 May, the centre of this town of 90,000 had been ransacked. The next day, the minister of the interior censored the editorial written by Mr. Kamel Belkacem, for that week's issue of *Algerie Actualite*, a

flagship of glasnost in recent years. This provided a timely illustration of how difficult it will be for old habits to die. The minister was assisted in his task by the editor of the FLN daily *El Moudjahid*. Mr. Nait Maz, who qualifies as an unreconstructed Stalinist, or dare one say "Boumediennist", *El Moudjahid*'s journalists: had, a few weeks earlier, come out on strike against their editor, who acts as a bulwark of the old guard.

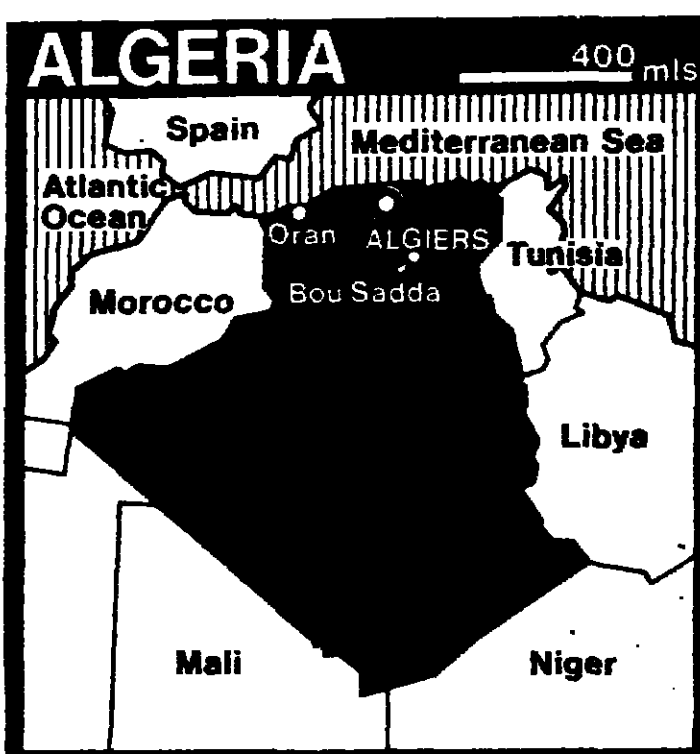
Nor did rocketing food prices during Ramadan help — prices collapsed as soon as the month of fasting was over, a clear illustration of how the "millionaires du legume" can hold 24 million Algerians to ransom. In a recent interview, the prime minister, Mr. Kasdi Merbah, conceded that the authorities' inability to control prices had left the impression that they were powerless. For the first time ever, housewives refused to buy certain produce, which suggests that they are heeding Mr. Merbah's advice to take the initiative so long as this did not result in violence.

Another feature of Ramadan which made many Algerians uncomfortable was the pressure put on their pupils by primary school teachers, many of whom are active Muslim fundamentalists. Many children were asked to check that their parents were fasting and conforming to the other rules which pertain to a strict interpretation of Islam. Last March thousands of women protested against the activities of radical Muslim groups, much in evidence since the free speech was guaranteed by the new constitution. Working class women had mingled with teachers, doctors, lawyers and smartly dressed bourgeois from the Hydra residential area in a most unusual demonstration.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly, all of whose members still belong to the FLN, is debating a number of important bills, three of which, if they become law, will open the way to Algeria's future as a more democratic and open society. The first concerns independent political associations, the second the media, the third relates to joint ventures between Algerian and foreign companies, which to date have been virtually ruled out because of the extremely restrictive nature of existing regulations.

Problems on the economic front

Conducting such radical poli-



The absence of any forum for, let alone tradition of, reasoned debate does not help, but, understandably, people are often more intent on pouring out long silenced grievances than in engaging in constructive discussion.

Algeria has been scrupulous in honouring its foreign debt obligations, which have amounted to more than \$5bn annually since 1985, but financial orthodoxy has been bought at a high economic and social price over a period when foreign income has been running below \$8bn every year. Algeria's foreign debt of \$24bn is less heavy than that of many Arab and Latin American countries when set against its GDP. But it is far more expensive to service than that of neighbouring Morocco because the bulk of it is owed to commercial banks rather than multilateral lenders whose loans are extended on much softer terms.

The challenges facing the leaders

Improving the performance of the economy also means allowing the managers to manage and take decisions, even unpopular ones, and rewarding them for their skills. The *Statut General du Travailleur* imposes a rigid grid on wages across the country and will have to be scrapped. The state-sponsored trade union, Union General des Travailleurs Algériens (UGTA) is not taking kindly to the idea of pluralism — its leaders are far more interested in protecting their long-standing powers and privileges. New unions are emerging, though it is impossible to tell whether they will succeed in breaching

UGTA's hitherto watertight monopoly. Much here depends on whether the new law on political associations allows for the proper financing of the newly formed groups.

The challenge of economic reform remains daunting. The centralised economy was, as one commentator wrote recently on Eastern Europe, not a way of running the economy. It was above all a political construct, "begun in ignorance, developed in terror, cemented in corruption (and that was the part of it which worked)". Its bottom line was not profit but the party. Such words are too harsh to describe the situation in Algeria before last October's riots but the extraordinary idealism which pulsed through the early years of this country after independence in 1962 has given way to an exhausted sullenness.

Will a peasantry which has been proletarianised, workers who have got used to shoddy work, managers who have had to bribe or twist for most resources and a public which is fearful of the sacrifices market reforms will bring be capable of rising to the challenge? Are Algerian leaders able to give an example of harder work, more reasoned debate and frugal living than hitherto? These are some of the conditions required to lift the spirit of their people and set them on the road of growing wealth and a more democratic system.

LETTERS

Limit the noise

TWO years ago I wrote to one of the Arabic dailies that a car horn sends out a noise which reaches 100 decibels, according to experts' reports. The experts found out that one cannot stand a noise at 100 decibels level for more than two hours, after which he or she will be subject to fatigue and incidental nausea, headache, vibration of the brain waves, contraction of arteries and veins, hyper blood pressure, poor appetite, inability to work, feeling of tiredness and nervousness, and increased heart beats. High levels of noise affect hearing and could gradually lead to deafness. Noise also affects the focus particularly when a mother gets exposed to high levels of noise.

Realising the gravity of this problem, the Ministry of Health in June 1987 formed a special

committee to draft regulations on noise in closed and open public places. The committee submitted the draft regulations to the concerned authorities for review, endorsement and implementation. Since then nothing was said about the regulations.

Most of the countries of the world which have charted their way on the path of progress, including Jordan, have the means to enforce control to put an end to the noise pollution problems. If the regulation still needed further study and examination, then why should not the minister of interior issue instructions banning and limiting the use of horns in accordance with the authorities empowered on him under the 1984 traffic law?

Ahmad Fawzi Abu Nuwar
Amman



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabic dailies on Monday commented on King Hussein's statement to the London-based *Al Sharq Al Awsat* magazine in which he tackled domestic affairs and pan-Arab issues. *Al Ra'i* Arabic daily referred in its editorial to the King's accusation of Israel as being behind the disturbances in the Kingdom last April and said that such conspiracies could not, and can never shake the Kingdom's solid steadfastness and can never deter Jordan from confronting Israel's expansionist and aggressive designs in the Arab World. The paper said that Jordan which guards the longest confrontation lines in the face of the Israeli enemy has succeeded in forming a solid and strong wall aborting all Israeli plots and intrigues, and defending the Arab homeland. It was natural for Israel to escalate its pressures on the Kingdom and to try to tamper with its security since it faces a revolt in the occupied Arab territories supported by Jordan and the whole Arab nation, said the paper. This is not a novelty and will not be the last time for Israel to adopt such evil methods to weaken the Arab countries and national unity is therefore needed more than at any time in the past to foil all enemy attempts directed against Jordan and the rest of the Arab World.

A columnist in *Al Ra'i* daily Monday tackled the question of the high rate of population growth in Jordan and cites official statistics which indicate that Jordan is the sixth country in the world in terms of population growth. Rakan Al Majali, who is also the paper's editor in chief, says that most Jordanian parents do not have family planning and their children increase annually making it impossible for them to cope with the requirements of the modern age and bringing up many children who in most cases suffer from malnutrition. The writer notes that mother and child care centres in the country have been spreading awareness among mothers about the fertility of bringing up large families for whom they cannot provide and says that the cost of living nowadays is soaring — a fact that should prompt most parents to suffice themselves with two children. He also refers to the newly discovered facts about the depletion of the ozone layer which threatens the world with very serious consequences and a world-wide famine. The writer expresses fears that since Jordan is among the group of countries with the highest rates of population growth it will not doubt be one of the most countries to bear the brunt in times of famine.

Al Dustour daily newspaper commented on King Hussein's statements published in *Al Sharq Al Awsat* newspaper in which he reaffirmed the solid stand of the Kingdom in the face of all conspiracies hatched by the Israeli enemy. The paper said that the hardships being confronted by Jordan were created by Israel's aggressive and expansionist designs against this country and its national unity. Referring to the King's decision to restore parliamentary rule in the country, the paper said that it reflects the self-confidence and the strong belief in the people's participation in the policy-making process and in the role of parliament as a partner in all government decisions. The paper said that the King's statement was a reassurance that the Kingdom was going ahead with its plans to deal with the economic situation with deep self-confidence and with more determination than ever.

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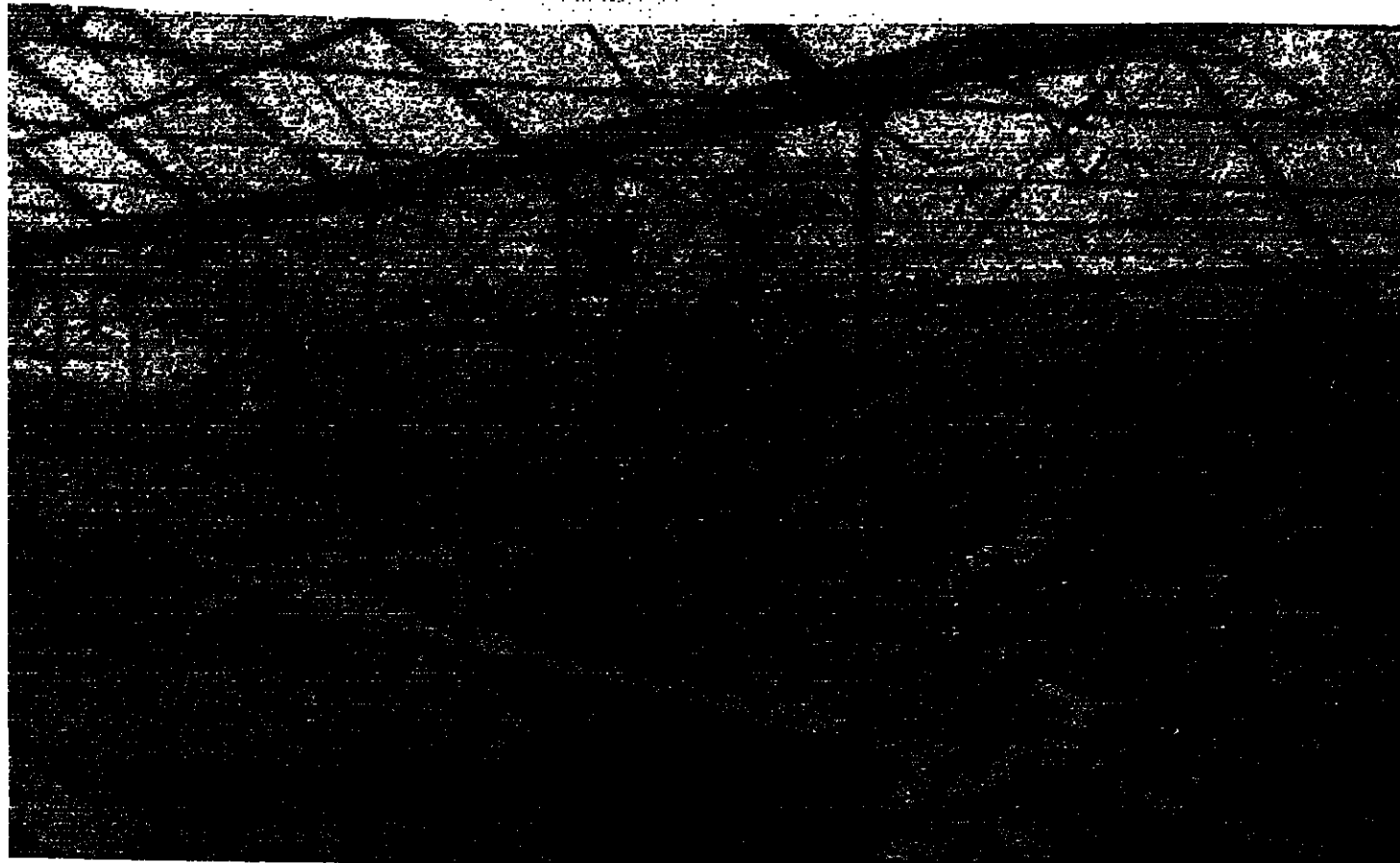
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The use of innovative farming techniques has helped transform parts of the desert.

Modern agriculture methods pay off in Egypt

By Henry Tanner

CAIRO — Seen from a plane, the line between the vast Egyptian desert and the relatively tiny area of fertile land in the Delta along the Nile has always looked clear and neat as if drawn by a sharp pencil. And it has not been changing over the years — for centuries.

But now the line is becoming blurred. Little protrusions of green are beginning to push out from the Delta into the beige of the sand. And islands of similar green are spreading slowly elsewhere: along the desert road from Cairo to Alexandria; round the oases in the Western desert; and along the two new canals that are pushing from the Delta eastward toward Suez and westward the Libyan border, parallel to the Mediterranean coast.

Egyptian agriculture is stirring a last — and none too soon. The country's population has reached an unmanageable 54 million and is increasing at the rate of a million every seven months. Once nearly self-sufficient, it is now importing most of its basic food. Only a fraction of its surface is arable. It desperately needs new land for agriculture and people to live on.

The new beginnings are tentative and even embryonic, but great hopes are riding on them. Take the area north of Cairo's urban sprawl just west of the barrage where the Nile forks and veers into the Delta.

Thousands of acres of desert have been newly converted there and planted with grapes, apples, oranges, mangoes and other fruits. The planting started in earnest some three or four years ago after the oases, virtually impassable had come out of Cairo was given a hard top. Most of the farms are privately owned but the largest is run by the Interior Ministry on land belonging to its prison system.

An unknown Egypt

Visiting the area means taking trip into an unknown Egypt that a world removed both from the opulence of the dusty, over-crowded cities and the fields of the Delta where water buffalo plow and water is still drawn on canals by spiraling pumps.

invented by Archimedes.

The last plot to be planted are on a 15-metre rise almost a mile into the desert, and they are green with baffling speed.

Grape vines put into the ground 18 months ago are beginning to bear the first small grapes. On an adjoining lot, short stubby apple trees planted two and a half years ago are ripe with the first full-size yellow-and-red good-tasting Anna apples.

Elsewhere there are baby peach trees planted last January surrounded by tall corn stalks that give them shade and protect them against the desert wind. They will begin to bear fruit next year.

The secret to desert farming is constant attention to detail. "It is management-intensive," said Hattam Mostafa, who runs one of the family-owned farms together with his sister Nadia. As for the rest, the operation sounds deceptively simple.

All it took, it seems, was a system of drip irrigation tubes laid out on the desert floor, a hole for each tree and the right nutrients. Windbreaks in the form of single rows of tough needle trees divide the land. Newly planted, the trees were barely six feet tall but will eventually grow to the height of a four-story house.

The water, taken from the canal that marks the western boundary between the Delta and the desert, is being filtered in a succession of pools, then pumped up onto the higher-lying new fields. Every phase of the operation is constantly and carefully monitored.

The farmers did not do any leveling of the desert floor before planting. They are proud of having never used a bulldozer and never disturbed the hard crust of the desert floor, which remains grainy and arid between the green rows of new trees.

A strong, gusty wind failed to raise the sand in the newly planted areas but scooped up large clouds of it on nearby land that had been worked with bulldozers.

"You can grow almost anything in the desert with the proper love and care," said Mr. Mostafa. "That's what we wanted to show. We are very, very encouraged." He is constantly experimenting with new crops and new grafts.

Most of the new farms in the area are an extension of older ones that had been started up with traditional methods on both sides of the western-most canal of the Delta decades ago.

The Mostafas' farm was started on some 100 hectares in 1961. In 1986, the family started to push further into the desert — and up the hill — on another 350 acres.

In the old part the fruit trees and the vines have grown to full size and grass is growing between the rows. The needle trees of the windbreaks are thick and tall. So are the palm trees and flame trees, and there are dozens of different kinds of flowers. There is a swimming pool and even a smooth green lawn-tennis court.

USAID

Until a few years ago the traditional view — held by the U.S. Agency for International Development among others — was that land reclamation in the desert was so expensive as to be unworkable. It was also assumed that it would take six or seven years before the land would bear fruit, if then.

Not so, says Mr. Mostafa, who like his father, who founded the farm, has an engineering degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The average cost of converting an acre of desert land is between \$1,200 and \$1,500, he said. And he estimates that an apple orchard will bring in at least that much from about the third year.

Deeper in the desert, where there are no canals and where wells have to be dug, the cost may well be double. And there are pitfalls, of course.

Desert-farming is profitable, farmers concede, only for farms of at least 50 acres which have the equipment, the management skills and trained workers for constant care. "You must have farmed in the Delta first to make a go of it," one farmer said.

A desert farm is like the intensive care ward of a hospital; you have a life-support system that can never be allowed to go off," he said, adding that young people who are given five or six acres in the desert and who rely on the state for electricity and water, which they share with others, are facing impossible odds.

"One day, the electricity will fail or the water will not arrive and the crop will be destroyed. We have our own generators and our pumps and reservoirs and a team of workers for constant control and maintenance."

Some of the successful farms have organized themselves in companies which will reclaim desert land, put in the irrigation system and manage the fledgling farm on a contract for others.

Desert farming took off after the government lifted crop controls on reclaimed land and freed the prices at these produce. By contrast, in the Delta, the obligatory crops are cotton, sugar cane and rice which the farmers sell at controlled prices to the government.

Proponents of desert farming have been opposed within the government by other specialists who want continued priority to be given to the systematic intensification of existing agricultural yields in the Delta. The government, it seems has not resolved the dispute.

Yousuf Amin Wali, the minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, recently said that 100,000 acres of desert will be reclaimed this year, with similar areas planned for each of the coming years.

Farmers complain that Egypt has no extension service equipped to give them information and technological advice even though the Agriculture Ministry has received millions of dollars in technical assistance from USAID.

In one area, a parasite recently destroyed almost the entire crop of grapes. Only a few farmers received warnings from stricken colleagues in time to send out teams to hand-pick the bug from every plant and then spray with just the right chemical.

Agricultural experts in significant quantities, moreover, are a matter of the future. There are no collective facilities for market research, transport or storage.

But at the Sunday-gardener's level at least, the idea of growing things in the sand has caught on. An economist returning to Egypt invited his old colleagues out for a cruise on the Nile on his first evening in the hope of getting an exhaustive fill-in on the national economy. But "all they wanted to talk about was the respective size of their mangoes" — *IHT*

Growing number of elderly stirs action, debate

By Maggie Jackson
The Associated Press

LONDON — Countries from West Germany to Greece are studying how fewer young workers will support strained pension and health-care systems as Western Europe ages.

Parts of Europe have the world's highest populations of elderly people, and governments are recognising the change. In the faster-aging north, retirees may comprise 40 per cent of some areas by 2040.

But the experts are casting aside gloomy visions of crowded old-age homes and broken economies. They say the bulk of the older population will be comfortable and have money to spend.

"Europe is in the position to be the first to enter a new social world, so what we decide to do is of great importance. Only now is anybody taking any notice of it," says Peter Laslett, a Cambridge University expert on aging.

"We can't look at it simply in terms of a burden," says Laslett, who himself is 73. "It's an enormous challenge for human beings for the first time to use their whole potential."

Demographers say that while the developing world will catch up quickly, Europe has more than twice the global proportion of elderly, or 12.4 per cent, and Northern Europe has 2.5 times the world average.

Southern Europe, with its higher birthrates, is aging less rapidly. By the year 2000 every fourth person will be over 65 in Western Europe, by one estimate.

Experts say the rising population of elderly is due to falling birthrates and advances in medicine.

Some say Europe has been slow to recognise the magnitude of the change.

"We're waking up to it late in the day," says Sally Greengross, secretary-general of Eurolink Age, a coalition promoting the cause of the 60 million over-60s in the European Economic Community.

France forbids forced retirement and job advertisements aren't allowed to set age limits. But other nations, says Eurolink age, have yet to follow suit.

The 12-nation European Economic Community plans a "year of the elderly" but bureaucratic delay has postponed it to 1991.

The EEC budget for elderly affairs more than doubled in 1988, but only to the equivalent of \$738,000.

Pensions are the primary concern, prompting fears that future workers could pay hefty proportions of their salaries to support pensioners.

West Germany estimates 40 per cent of its population will be over 65 by 2040, and its employers' federation says employees would have to pay 36 per cent of their salaries, or double today's rate, to sustain benefits.

The West German cabinet has proposed reforms, including hiking the retirement age for women from 60 to 65, the age at which men retire.

Italy is considering similar action. Most EEC citizens can receive retirement benefits at 60 or 65. Danes work the latest, to 67, and Italian women leave at 55.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government has acted to abolish a \$130 weekly limit on what pensioners can earn before losing some benefits. At the same time, it has been criticised for cutting pensions as part of what the government calls "weaning Britons off the dependency culture."

The elderly increasingly contribute to the economy by filling in for the shrinking numbers of young.

Already, some older workers are being wooed back by employers like Britain's Tesco supermarket chain, which hires 55- to 69-year-olds.

"They're very reliable conscientious, and don't need so much training," says Barry Ball, the personnel manager who began Tesco's plan a year ago.

"I'm not ready for retirement; work keeps me young," says Doris Broderick, 58, who started working in a Tesco market coffee shop six months ago after being laid off from serving coffee to Lloyd's shipping staff.

Reg Bennett found out after 33 years in the grocery business that two major British supermarket chains wouldn't hire him.

But Bennett is another of 2,300 full- and part-time workers over 55 hired by Tesco since last year in areas where younger workers are scarce.

Now, Bennett, is not only working, he's been promoted — to a \$223-a-week job as co-supervisor of 28 produce workers at a Tesco supermarket outside London.

"I don't feel my age. But I must admit I'm tired at the end of the day," said Bennett.

Success after sixty, a British employment agency for elderly workers, reported a 60-per cent jump in requests from companies in the first two months of 1989 compared with the same period last year.

But prejudice still keeps many from working, according to the Association of Retired Persons. The British group has signed up 25,000 members in eight months and hopes to expand to France and Germany.

"The elderly are just beginning to organise in France," said Ariane Revol-Briard of France.

In West Germany, a politician recently suggested forming a political party for those 60 and over.

Southern European countries, on the other hand, have less use for older workers. Spain, with 19 per cent unemployment, is studying a plan to offer tax breaks to companies which retire older workers early.



"Demographers say that while the developing world will catch up quickly, Europe has more than twice the global proportion of elderly, or 12.4 per cent, and Northern Europe has 2.5 times the world average."



The battle for music in Vegas

By Tim Dahlberg
The Associated Press

AS VEGAS — The stifling desert heat radiates from the sidewalk outside the Tropicana hotel here the band that for years avoided the music now walks a tight line to protest its replacement: taped music.

Inside the lavish resort, singers and dancers kick their heels to recorded music during the popular Folies Bergere show's once-nightly performances. Musicians are locked in a fight for survival at the Tropicana and at other strip resorts, where cost-conscious managers also want to replace live music in production shows.

"The musicians ultimately make the product that puts musicians out of work," lamented ark Tully Massaggi, leader of musicians union local 369. Think of the irony of that.

The conversion to tape now affects about 45 full-time musicians, but it has raised passions among many more who feel spontaneous entertainment is being sold out by gaming corporations. "We can't have this town —

which was built on live entertainment — go the other way," said singer Sammy Davis Jr. "Don't let them do this to us."

Davis and a few other big-name entertainers gathered recently to back the musicians.

"If we lose live music in this town, we've got serious problems," said comedian Jerry Lewis.

Lewis and Davis were appearing together at Bally's, which plans to replace the 19 musicians backing its jubilee production show with taped music but keep live musicians in its main showroom.

Hotel officials say musicians are an expensive luxury not found in Atlantic City, New Jersey, hotels, which allow taped music and synthesizers in place of live performances.

"We're not doing away with musicians in the celebrity room," said Robert Ostrovsky, a Bally's executive. But "we feel taped music is appropriate for production-type showrooms."

The 14 union musicians, who backed the Folies Bergere show at the Tropicana walked off their jobs June 3, upset over the hotel's

unwillingness to budge on the issue. The show was closed while a tape was prepared, and reopened June 25 to what hotel officials say are increasingly full audiences.

"We're doing very well with it," said hotel spokesman Ira David Sternberg.

Musicians at Bally's and the Flamingo Hilton, meanwhile, have stayed on the job despite the refusal of the hotels to increase their offer of two to four musicians at each hotel on the payroll

and severance pay to the others.

Officials at the three resorts sent letters to the musicians last week informing them they would not be needed further when they implement their final offer July 26 and go to taped music.

Perhaps more ominous, however, to the estimated 250 musicians who make a living in the hotels is a plan by the resorts to pay musicians only for the shows they actually perform.

Many entertainers bring their own bands to Las Vegas, limiting

work for the Las Vegas musicians.

Under the contract that expired June 1, musicians were guaranteed their \$654.71 a week salary for at least 38 weeks a year.

The pickets have tried to rally support by warning that musicians who fill the city's symphony and small jazz bands may be forced to leave town to find work, leaving a cultural void in the city.

The also took out a \$12,000 ad in the Los Angeles Times warning tourists of the strike.

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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Dollar of 'great Satan' is king

Iranians struggle to make a living

TEHRAN (R) — A year after Iran accepted an end to its war with Iraq, shortages of food and consumer items are forcing the average citizen to hustle for a living.

Most people pay scant attention to politics, despite the organised rallies of millions which can give the impression that Iran supports one vast, continuous political demonstration.

"Everything depends, my friend, on who you are, how much you have, and what you want," said the manager of one of the few large food shops.

And it is ironic that in a country which considers the United States the "great Satan," the U.S. dollar is king.

American cigarettes are an alternative currency. Street hawkers sell them individually, or by the packet at every few yards and

they are a most accurate real economic indicator.

Anyone with access to dollars is said to be automatically rich.

The official exchange rate moves around 76 to 82 rials to the dollar. But all normal standards of measuring economic well-being become useless in the context of a blackmarket exchange rate that at times reaches 20 times the official rate.

The only ways to judge the health of both the national and the individual's budget is to guess at the supply and demand of real goods, or to calculate how many dollars they have.

Iranian economists calculate

the national annual value of goods and services produced, the gross national product (GNP), at around \$160 to \$180 billion.

But they also estimate 90 per cent of the economy is state-run, and perhaps 80 per cent or more of that is within the rial economy, or in other words, it does not generate foreign exchange. GNP at real dollar values is anybody's guess.

Inflation, the key indicator for individual wealth which Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi estimated at over 23 per cent in March, also means little because of the rapid fluctuation in supply of different goods.

Meat is a case in point. "Last winter, we were paying about 3,000 rials a kilogramme for a good cut," said a woman in the street.

"The long summer drought has

forced farmers to kill many animals and now we can get it for 1,800, but for the same reason it is going to shoot up again soon, isn't it," she said.

Government ration coupons are issued for everything from toothpaste to rice and people carry large wads around with them, although having a coupon does not guarantee availability.

Wages are generally too low to cover costs. A low-paid worker — most of Tehran's 10 million people — can earn about 40,000 rials a month.

A two-bed apartment in an average area rents for around 30,000 a month, Iranians said.

So people take extra jobs, anything to earn more. Those with cars provide an alternative taxi service to the battered orange taxi-cabs rumbling around Tehran.

Ali is a factory worker with one baby daughter who after work uses his battered private car as a taxi.

He gets 50 rials for a short journey, 200 for a longer one. He is embarrassed but pleased to be given 1,000 rials, the current price of a packet Winston, or Marlboro cigarettes.

The wealthy areas of northern Tehran, where businessmen live behind barred windows with their cars and stereos, contrast with the poor housing estates of the south and west, where workers and refugees from bombed-out towns on the old frontline live.

Other tell-tale signs of an economy in distress offer themselves — deserted building sites, roadworks with stagnant water in the holes, shuttered restaurants, and expensive toys gathering dust in toyshop windows.

Poor Seven want cash to monitor G-7 policies

PARIS (R) — Organisers of the Poor People's Summit have said they had asked France to put up cash to help them monitor the West's economic policies.

Representatives of seven of the world's poorest nations said they wanted to set up a permanent centre to keep track of the policies of the seven leading industrial democracies, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The "summit of seven poor peoples" held rival summit talks in a seedy Paris meeting hall over the weekend as leaders of the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Canada and Italy held their annual economic discussions in the glass pyramid of the Louvre Museum and the futuristic Arch De La Defense.

Organisers of the alternative summit of peasant leaders and community workers from Brazil, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Mozambique, the Philippines and Zaire, told a news conference they had asked President Francois Mitterrand's top adviser to consider French government funding for the project.

"We'll have to see about that," they quoted him as replying.

French presidential adviser Jacques Attali briefly received a delegation from the counter-summit Saturday and promised he would hand the heads of state and government leaders a copy of their appeal.

"We refuse to allow the seven (rich) the right to speak in the name of the entire world and to decide for the whole of humanity," the poor seven said.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Ministry registers 144 new companies

AMMAN (Petra) — The number of companies registered at the Companies' Comptroller Department at the Ministry of Industry and Trade last June totalled 144 companies with an overall capital amounting to JD 3.6 million, an increase of about 112 per cent over June 1988. Ministry of Industry and Trade sources said that the number of companies registered in the same period last year was 159 companies with an aggregate capital of JD 1.7 million. The sources said that 75 per cent of the capital of the new registered companies was in industry, 19.6 per cent in commerce, 1.9 per cent in contracting and 3.4 per cent in services.

Libya adheres to OPEC quota

NICOSIA (R) — Libya's crude oil production in the second quarter of 1989 averaged 1.1 million barrels per day (b/d), compared with its OPEC quota of 1.037 million b/d, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported. OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) has allocated Libya a quota of 1.037 million b/d for the second half of 1989. MEES said about half of Libya's production was either used locally or in European refineries in which Libya's Oil Investment International Co. holds equity interests. It said Libya's domestic refining averaged 310,000 b/d in the second quarter of 1989, while it supplied 340,000 b/d of crude to refineries in Italy and 70,000 b/d to Coastal's Hamburg plant. The Nicosia-based oil industry newsletter said Brega International Marketing Co., the marketing arm of Libya's National Oil Corp. (NOC), received around 330,000 b/d of crude for sale to third parties. A further 118,000 b/d of oil was set aside for equity holders and 157,000 b/d for countries which have barter trade agreements with Libya.

Steel plant to make soap

MOSCOW (R) — A steel plant which failed to receive its rations of soap has decided to make it, a Soviet newspaper has reported. The plant in the industrial city of Magnitogorsk in the Urals converted part of its capacity to make soap which is in short supply throughout the Soviet Union. In some provincial areas, soap is rationed at the rate of 100 grammes (3.5 ounces) — about the size of one standard bar — per person every three months.

Egypt lowers oil export prices

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt lowered its oil-export prices by 25 cents a barrel for all grades effective July 16, a senior oil ministry official said Monday. The new price for top-grade Gulf of Suez blend is \$15.75 a barrel and \$14.90 a barrel for Belayim, said Hammad Ayoub, head of the ministry's foreign trade department. He said Ras Badran sells for \$13.75 a barrel and Ras Ghareb for \$13.45 a barrel. Ayoub did not indicate how long the prices would remain in effect. This is the second reduction in oil-export prices in a month. The first, on July 3, brought down prices by \$1.75 a barrel for all grades.

Israelis plan to shake government

ACRE (R) — Israeli workers have called a general strike for two hours next Sunday to protest against government handling of unemployment, now at its highest in 20 years.

"The government is behaving with a great deal of laziness," Yisrael Kessar, head of the powerful Histadrut trade federation, said Monday. The federation represents more than 80 per cent of the Israeli work force.

"We have been forced to take the unusual step of striking the economy to shake up the government. I want to hope it will be the last step, but if not, we will have to take additional steps," Kessar told reporters in the northern coastal town of Acre.

Israeli officials said Monday the unemployment rate had exceeded nine per cent.

"There are 140,000 unemployed against only 20,000 jobs available. That is the gap," said David Mena, director-general of the Israeli Employment Service.

Israel is suffering an economic slowdown largely because of the 19-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Unemployment has risen from 6.4 per cent last year.

Last month Israeli mayors chained themselves together outside the building where the cabinet was meeting and protested to Finance Minister Shimon Peres over rising unemployment.

Peres, head of the Labour Party, has devalued the shekel by about 16 per cent against the dollar.

Soviet farms dwarf U.S. family enterprises

WASHINGTON (AP) — A major new reference by the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) shows that the Soviet Union has about 1.5 billion acres (607 million hectares) of agricultural land spread among huge farms that dwarf most U.S. enterprises.

For example, the average size of state-owned farms in the Soviet Union is almost 40,000 acres (16,188 hectares). Collective farms operated cooperatively by families average nearly 16,000 acres (6,475 hectares) each.

In all, the Soviet Union in 1985 — the most recent figures tabulated — had 22,690 state farms and 26,660 collectives. No figures were available for private plots.

According to USDA estimates for last year, the United States had 999 million acres (404 million hectares) in about 2.16 million farms, virtually all privately owned and operated as family enterprises. Those averaged 463 acres (187 hectares) each.

The new booklet published by

the department's Economic Research Service is the first revision of statistics for Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union since 1983, said Nancy Cochrane, who coordinated the project.

New tables have been added on farm structure for selected countries, and these reflect some of the recent wave of reforms in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

No comparisons are made between those countries and the United States, however, and many of the units are in the metric system. For example, hectares are used for land area, with one hectare equal to 2.47 acres.

Production is in metric tonnes of 2,205 pounds each.

Besides the Soviet Union, seven Eastern European countries are included: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia. Albania was omitted.

Official statistical sources of the countries were used as the primary source of information, along with some supplemental sources. However, Cochrane noted that "data on Albania were too scarce to include."

The 129-page booklet shows some of the many changes and differences that have occurred in agriculture in the Soviet Bloc

since 1965.

In the past, it was a common practice for all the countries except Yugoslavia to distinguish between two types of socialised farms, state and collective, or cooperative.

"This system has been changing in many of the countries since the early 1970s," Cochrane said in the booklet's introduction. "Bulgaria has abolished the system altogether in favour of agro-industrial complexes."

She added: "Some of the distinctions between state and cooperative farms have been blurred in all the countries. Wages, for example, are increasingly linked to productivity, even on the state farms."

In addition to the socialised agriculture, each country permits a certain amount of private farming. Except for Yugoslavia and Poland, it involves mostly small plots, usually half a hectare (about 1.25 acres), allotted to collective farm members, state farm employees and certain other individuals.

The private plots make up 2.7 per cent of the arable land in the Soviet Union, as much as 13 per cent in Bulgaria and Hungary, and 14 per cent in Romania.

"Despite its small share of the arable land, the private sector in these countries can contribute as

much as 25 per cent to 35 per cent of gross agricultural output," Cochrane said.

"Plotters tend to specialise in labour-intensive lines of production such as livestock products and fruits and vegetables."

Agriculture in Yugoslavia and Poland is dominated by small, privately owned farms. In 1985, those accounted for 77 per cent of the arable land in Poland and 80 per cent in Yugoslavia and their shares of gross farm output were 78 per cent and 69 percent, respectively.

Private farms in both countries are very small, averaging less than five hectares, or about 12 acres, in Poland, and only 2.5 hectares, or a little more than six acres, in Yugoslavia.

Taiwan gold reserves hit new highs

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's gold reserves hit a new high after the government resumed imports of the metal, the central bank said Monday.

Gold reserves rose to 13.54 million ounces at the end of May from 13.49 million in April and compared with 12.94 million in May 1988, the bank said.

Taiwan was the world's biggest gold importer in 1988 although the central bank halted purchases in July that year after Washington said its imports were intended to reduce artificially the island's huge trade surplus with the United States.

A bank official declined to say where the latest imports came

from but private bullion dealers suggested South Africa as the source.

"We believe the central bank resumed gold purchases in May when gold prices were low," said Frank Lin, vice-president of the China Trust Precious Metals Corporation.

He said the government might continue to buy if gold prices retreated to May levels of about \$360 per ounce. The price is now about \$371.

A Japanese bullion dealer in Taipei said removal of the gold import tariff this week would stimulate private purchases, mainly by jewellery shops and trading companies.

Taiwan's mainly private sector gold imports plunged to 94.87 tonnes in the first half of 1989 from 249.56 tonnes in the same period last year.

Dealers said imports would rise later this year because of the tariff removal, which would also substantially reduce gold smuggling.

About 150 tonnes of gold were

smuggled into Taiwan last year. They said some speculative funds, previously invested in stocks and with illegal investment houses, were shifting to gold.

"There is room for profits if people buy gold now because of low prices," a Hong Kong bullion dealer said.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

	1.6060/70	U.S. dollars
One Sterling	1.1915/25	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.9125/30	Deutschemarks
	2.1570/80	Dutch guilders
	1.6530/40	Swiss francs
	40.02/05	Belgian francs
	6.4900/50	French francs
	1386/1387	Italian lire
	141.65/75	Japanese yen
	6.5200/50	Swedish crowns
	7.0100/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.4325/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	370.80/371.20	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The market closed slightly higher in subdued trading after gains in overseas markets Friday. The All Ordinaries index closed 5.2 points up at 1,563.3.

TOKYO — Prices closed lower in the year's thinnest trade on prospects that the ruling party will fare badly in an upper house election Sunday. The Nikkei index eased 118.55 points to close at 33,456.22.

HONG KONG — Share prices ended easier in thin trade as investors awaited U.S. May trade data to be issued Tuesday and a Hong Kong government land sale later this week. The Hang Seng index fell 13.47 points to 2,502.64.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed slightly lower on selective profit-taking in active trading. The Straits Times industrial index fell 4.50 to 1,359.0.

BOMBAY — Share prices fell sharply in light trading for the new two-week account on sporadic speculative selling in a market that lacked support. Tata Steel fell 56.25 rupees to 1,362.5 and Nocti 20 to 965.

FRANKFURT — The DAX index touched a 1989 intraday day of 1,537.80 before edging lower on profit-taking and a lack of follow-through orders. The index closed at 1,522.99, down 7.47 on Friday's close.

ZURICH — Shares closed generally steady to higher in moderate trading but selected blue chips fell on continued profit-taking. The all-share Swiss performance index rose 2.4 to 1,123.4.

PARIS — Prices closed firmer after a quiet session, with no major corporate news to stimulate activity. The 50-share price indicator ended 0.54 per cent up.

LONDON — Share prices were subdued in late trading near the day's lows, becalmed by lack of hard news over the actual and rumoured bids which boosted the market last week. At 1505 GMT the FTSE was up 5.6 at 2,279.3.

NEW YORK — Blue chips were stuck at slightly lower levels in late morning trading, pressured by profit-taking. The Dow was down nine at 2,546.

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Gandhi, Bhutto pledge regional stability

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his Pakistani counterpart Benazir Bhutto ended a 17-hour visit Monday with a pledge to forge "peace and security in the region."

The two leaders told reporters that the road to better relations between the two traditionally hostile nations is fraught with obstacles. But "peace in the region is a noble cause and worth pursuing," said Bhutto.

"Each country has an opposition, but a government cannot be hostage to partisan considerations," she said. "If one must be hostage, one should be to history and the judgment of history."

The joint pledge was the first time since 1960 that direct bilateral talks have been held between the leaders of the two regional powers.

Twenty-nine years ago Gandhi's grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru met President Azab Khan. But since Pakistan was carved out of India in 1947 the nations have gone to war three times.

No agreements were announced at the 25-minute news conference. The prime ministers said their talks ran the gamut from the threat of a regional nuclear arms race to the disputed

Siachen Glacier separating the nations.

However, the two prime ministers briefly clashed over Islamabad's controversial nuclear policy.

Gandhi told a questioner that Pakistan's nuclear programme was one of India's main concerns. "Pakistan's programme is entirely under military control. It is not open like our programme... which can be discussed in parliament," he said.

Bhutto sitting beside him, seemed surprised and quickly interjected:

"I would like to take this opportunity to assure the Indian prime minister that our nuclear programme is not under military control. The government is seized of the matter."

India has repeatedly accused Pakistan of making nuclear weapons, a charge denied in Islamabad. India exploded a nuclear device in 1974 but says it has not gone on to make weapons.

The two leaders also confirmed their difference of opinion over

the Himalayan state of Kashmir, cause of two of the three wars between their countries since 1947.

Bhutto said: "We do not believe in nuclear proliferation... we believe in peace, global peace, regional peace."

Last December, when Pakistan hosted a summit of South Asian nations, India and Pakistan signed an agreement not to attack one another's nuclear facilities.

Although Pakistan has offered to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection, Bhutto has said her country will not act unilaterally. India has rejected the inspection proposal.

Gandhi arrived in the Pakistani capital Sunday to colourful banners and ceremonial 19-gun salute. But hidden were protesting residents of Kashmir — fearful that Pakistan and India might reach a settlement dividing their homeland. Eleven political parties operating in the disputed Kashmir region organised about 300 people to protest Gandhi's arrival.

"We are not against India and Pakistan's rapprochement, but we don't want their friendship at our cost," said Eulian Mahmood



Rajiv Gandhi



Benazir Bhutto

Chowdry, of the Azad Muslim Conference.

The protesters said they wanted the fate of Kashmir resolved through a plebiscite, in line with a 1949 U.N. resolution.

But the two leaders said they favoured a 1972 agreement calling for a solution through bilateral talks.

Asked about the possibility of a plebiscite to determine the future of the Muslim-majority state, a long-standing Pakistani demand, Gandhi said: "The question of a plebiscite in Kashmir, from our point of view is out."

Bhutto commented simply: "We have differing positions on Kashmir."

Indian and Pakistani forces now face one another from outposts on the inhospitable Siachen

glacier, which is part of the Karakoram Mountain range at the northern edge of the Himalayas. Control over the disputed 6,000-metre glacier in northeastern Pakistan and northwestern India would give either nation control over the northern end of Kashmir.

Gandhi, who arrived in Islamabad after visiting Moscow, the major backer of the Communist government in war-torn Afghanistan, said he came without a message for Pakistan from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

On Sunday, Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan asked Gandhi to take "positive confidence-building measures" to dispel Pakistan's impression that India wanted to dominate the region.

Indian leader hits Colombo's approach

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Monday bluntly attacked Sri Lanka as "sloppy" in its handling of a row over the withdrawal of Indian troops from the island.

At a news conference on his return from visits to Paris, Moscow and Islamabad, Gandhi condemned Sri Lanka's attitude in the dispute about when 45,000 Indian troops should leave the country.

"The whole way that it has been handled by the Sri Lankan government, I think, is very sloppy. It is not the way relations between the two countries should be handled," he said.

Asked about Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne's threat to expel Indian troops if they were not withdrawn by the end of the month, Gandhi said: "I hope good sense prevails."

Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa has told the Indian peace keeping force, sent to Sri Lanka two years ago to help end a Tamil separatist rebellion, to leave by the end of July.

India has refused, saying promises of Tamil autonomy made in a 1987 accord signed by Gandhi and former Sri Lankan President Junius Jayawardene have not been fulfilled. Indian troops could not leave until autonomy was granted and Tamils felt safe,

New Delhi said. The Indians were sent to disarm Tamil rebels, but the formidable Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas refused to abide by the accord's conditions. Nearly 1,000 Indian soldiers have been killed.

Gandhi accused Sri Lanka of reneging on its promise of autonomy for Tamils, most of whom live in the northern and eastern areas of the Indian Ocean island.

"There seems to be a tendency on the part of the Sri Lankan government to backtrack on the contractual obligations to devolve power to the Sri Lankan Tamils."

"This is a dangerous direction the Sri Lankan government is taking and I hope they realise the gravity of this decision of theirs," Gandhi said.

Gandhi said India had signed the accord only because Sri Lankan Tamils, 13 per cent of the country's 16 million people, were not willing to trust their government. "That is why we had to come in... we had to be guarantors," he said.

Gandhi denied charges that India's rows with Sri Lanka and Nepal — the latter over renewing trade and transit accords for the landlocked Himalayan nation — signalled the emergence of a country using military power to dominate South Asia.

COLUMN

Presley-lookalike gets go-ahead

JACKSON (AP) — A rosy likeness of rock 'n' roll king Elvis Presley will appear on Mississippi's entry in the Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day after all. Barry Ward, a Memphis, Tennessee, attorney representing Presley's estate, said Thursday that an earlier decision against allowing use of the likeness had been reversed. The Mississippi parade entry is planned as a tribute to the magnolia state's musicians. "The estate does not like, normally, to have Elvis associated with any other artists," Ward said. "The other artists that are going to be featured on the float are outstanding in their field, even though it was a different field from Elvis." With the floral bust of Presley will be likenesses of bluesman B.B. King, opera diva Lontony Price and country singer Tammy Wynette. Ward said the original decision was reconsidered because of the float's importance to Mississippi and Mississippians. The \$102,500 float was already under construction in Pasadena, California, where the parade is held.

Vatican, Poland establish full ties

VATICAN CITY (Agencies) — The Vatican said Monday it had established diplomatic relations with Poland — the first time the Holy See has forged such links with a communist country.

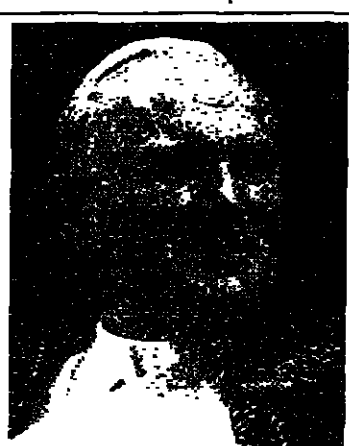
A Vatican statement said that from Monday "The Holy See and Poland have reestablished diplomatic relations at the level of an apostolic nunciature (embassy) on the part of the Holy See and ambassador level by Poland."

Previous diplomatic links were broken after the communist takeover in Poland in 1944. Negotiations had been going on for some time, and Polish-born Pope John Paul II indicated recently an agreement was near. He disclosed a week ago he intended to send an envoy soon but did not say when.

Monday's announcement said the decision was made in consideration of the "noble tradition" of links through the centuries between the Holy See and the Polish nation, which is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic.

The Holy See now has relations with 118 countries. During his visit to Poland in June 1987, the Pope said the lack of diplomatic ties with such a Catholic country was "something abnormal" and could be harmful to the country.

There was no immediate announcement on the name of the Vatican envoy, but there has been speculation it could be Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, a Colombian who is papal nuncio



Pope John Paul II

to Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia, which is non-aligned, is the only communist country in Eastern Europe with diplomatic ties with the Vatican. The Vatican also has full relations with communist Cuba.

The last papal ambassador to Poland left Warsaw Sept. 5, 1939, at the outbreak of World War II.

After a series of high-level visits, the two sides agreed to establish permanent working contacts in 1974.

Vatican officials said recently they expected the papal envoy could be named next month, raising speculation the nuncio might take up his post around the anniversary date of Sept. 5.

The Polish government has been eager to reestablish ties with the Holy See, which is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic.

In the past, some Polish bishops were reportedly reluctant to reestablish ties, fearful the Polish government would seek to go behind their backs and deal directly with Rome on church-state issues.

A major hurdle was cleared in May when the Polish parliament enacted three bills establishing the legal status of the Roman Catholic Church.

Yazov says reactor fault but no fire on submarine

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov said a reactor fault forced a Soviet submarine to surface in the Barents Sea Sunday but denied Norwegian reports that there had been a fire on board.

The smoke billowing from the craft's conning tower, which was spotted by a passing Norwegian ship, came from the submarine's diesel engine, Yazov told the official news agency TASS Monday.

The submarine, which Norwegian officials said was of the Alpha-class, began moving back to base under its own power after the reactor and accumulator batteries had been checked, Yazov said. It arrived at 4.30 a.m. Moscow time (0030 GMT).

"There was no accident," Yazov said. "The Norwegians took as fire what was simply diesel exhaust."

"On Sunday at 11.25 Moscow time (0725 GMT), 50 kilometres north of Kola Bay, the emergency defence of the main energy installation on a nuclear submarine went into action as it was carrying out combat training," Yazov said.

The craft then switched to its accumulator batteries, but the effect of the full load caused a short circuit.

"The submarine surfaced and the diesel engines were switched on which caused an exhaust," he said.

A Soviet ship, the Gromyk, was stationed nearby and hurried to the scene, he said.

It was the third incident in four months involving a Soviet submarine off the Norwegian coast.

In April, a Mike-class nuclear submarine apparently used to test advanced weapons systems caught fire and sank in the

Norwegian Sea, killing 42 crew. Last month, an Echo-2 class nuclear-powered submarine suffered a fault in its reactor in the same area.

Earlier, Monday, Norway voiced scepticism that the "apparent" fire aboard the Soviet submarine was part of a naval exercise, and protested what it called the Soviet failure to warn Norway of a possible radiation threat.

"We must note what the Soviets said, but stick by our original statement about indications of a possible fire," Defence Ministry spokesman Erik Senstad said Monday.

The ship was sighted by the Norwegian research vessel Mariatta in the Barents sea about 120 kilometres east of the Norwegian town of Vardoe and north of the Kola peninsula.

Alpha-class submarines are powered by two nuclear reac-

tors cooled by liquid metal. They are capable of carrying nuclear-tipped torpedoes and anti-submarine missiles as well as conventional warheads.

The Norwegian institute for radiation hygiene reported no traces of radiation in preliminary tests of samples taken near the accident site.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg summoned Soviet Ambassador Alexander V. Teterin late Sunday and said "it is entirely unsatisfactory" that Norway had not been warned of the third such incident since April.

Norway sees the submarine fires off its coast as possible radiation threats to public health, said Nordsetten.

The Soviet foreign ministry expressed surprise that Norway had not been informed of Sunday's exercise, the NRK radio reported Monday.

Norwegian Defence Minister Johan Joergen Holst told the Verdens Gang newspaper he was worried about the operations and crew training aboard Soviet submarines sailing off northern Norway.

"It's extremely worrisome to have three incidents involving nuclear submarines so close together... and I must emphasise that this concerns three different types of submarines," Holst said.

Stoltenberg said Norway has drafted a treaty that would require the Soviet Union to inform Norway of military accidents. The Soviets have similar agreements with the United States, Britain, West Germany and France.

Five Alpha class submarines are thought to be assigned to the Soviet north fleet base, which sails near Norway on its way to the North Atlantic



HOW TO 'MILK' A RATTLESNAKE: A staff member at the Butantan Institute in Sao Paulo "milks" a rattlesnake for the poison in glands behind its fangs. Brief pressure on the glands is enough to

spurt a few clear drops from the lethal looking fangs into a small glass dish. The poison will be injected into produce a snakebite antidote.

South Korean lawmaker charged with espionage

SEOUL (AP) — In one of the most serious such cases in South Korean history, a national lawmaker was charged with espionage Monday for allegedly receiving \$120,000 over a three-year period to work for communist North Korea.

The Agency for National Security Planning said Suh Kyung-Won, 52, was turned over Monday to prosecutors, who have 30 days to bring an indictment needed for trial. If convicted, he could face the death penalty.

An aide of Suh, Pang Yang-Hyun, who also was charged with espionage, is accused of being a middleman in Suh's alleged transactions with the North.

In a televised news conference, the intelligence agency said Suh received a total of \$120,000 on 14 occasions between April 1985, when he was allegedly recruited by North Korean agents, and December 1988.

"A shocking and surprising case," said Ahn Ung-Mo, deputy director of the security agency, who presided over the news conference.

Suh, a farmer and dissident who became a member of the National Assembly for the largest opposition party, the Party for Peace and Democracy, turned

himself in June 25 after reportedly first telling party leaders that he had travelled secretly to the North.

He was formally arrested June 28 on charges of violating national security laws for making an unauthorised visit to the North in August 1988 to talk with North Korean leaders about unification of the peninsula.

The South Korean government forbids citizens from making unauthorised trips to the North and maintains that dialogue on unification must be conducted through official channels.

Intelligence sources said they were concerned that Suh and the North both had kept his trip secret for 10 months and that Suh had made other overseas trips.

The investigation has been front-page news in South Korean newspapers and Suh's party has accused the government of harassment for its frequent questioning of party lawmakers.

The leader of the party, Kim Dae-Jung, turned down two requests to be interviewed by intelligence agents, saying he had nothing to add to the investigation that authorities could not learn elsewhere. He claimed the investigation was an attempt to make him appear pro-communist.

China lambasts G-7 declaration

PEKING (Agencies) — China angrily attacked the world's seven leading industrial nations Monday for what it called "gross interference" and rejected condemnation of its crushing of student demonstrations in Peking last month.

Its first reaction was an editorial in People's Daily, the Communist Party newspaper, also broadcast on state radio and headlined "China's Internal Affairs Brook No Interference."

"These groundless charges, which only represent gross interference in China's internal affairs, are currently unacceptable to the Chinese government and people," it said.

Leaders of the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada meeting in Paris at the weekend condemned China for the army's mass killing of civilians and urged it to stop suppressing people seeking democratic rights.

They also called on the World Bank to postpone examining new loans to China, a step the World Bank has already endorsed, but stopped short of imposing economic sanctions.

Military sales and ministerial visits to China have already been cancelled.

China's official press has not reported the sections of the Group of Seven (G-7) declaration concerning China. Chinese can no longer look for information in foreign newspapers as sales were banned in Peking late last week.

More than 200 civilians were killed by official count when the

army attacked crowds protecting the protesters June 3. Western intelligence sources said up to 3,000 may have died. Thousands have been arrested nationwide since and the official media have reported 12 executions directly linked to the protests.

"The actions taken by the Chinese government have in no way offended the West or any other country," the People's Daily said. "The problem arises simply because certain countries, out of their own likes and dislikes and their sense of value, have in a broad scope directly damaged China's interests and dignity with words and deeds."

The editorial said China has "global strategic importance and can provide an enormous market. The near-sighted practice of keeping China away from the world community may not only undermine world peace and stability, but hurt the interests of Western countries as well."

For years China crafted its own foreign policy with a heavy ideological content, but in the past decade it has shifted to a more hard-nosed policy based on practical interests. It has shed its isolation of the 1960s and early 1970s. And official exchanges in education, culture, science and sports have become routine.

Most important, foreign investment and technology are now key to its ambitious goal of doubling national income by the year 2000. But the editorial said foreign withdrawal of investment would only encourage a spirit of self-reliance.

Wrongly convicted man bears no malice

By Robert Dvorchak
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Randall Dale Adams refuses to let bitterness spoil his enjoyment of freedom, even though he served 12½ years in prison and came within three days of being executed for a murder he didn't commit.

"I hate what happened," said Adams, 40, freed in March from a Texas prison after an appeals court set aside his conviction. "But each day is like being granted another day to walk upon the earth and bring peace to my family."

"If I did hold feelings of bitterness or revenge, I will ruin whatever future I do have. If you come within three days of being executed, you better know who you are and you better throw your animosities out the window."

Adams was convicted in the

1976 shooting death of a Dallas police officer. The case was documented in the film "The Thin Blue Line," which questioned the testimony of prosecution witnesses including David Ray Harris, who is on death row in Texas for another killing. In the film, Harris virtually confessed to the 1976 shooting.

Adams bears no hatred towards Harris, saying, "I wish him no harm. But I wish him no luck in life."

After the movie was released, a state appeals court overturned the conviction and Texas authorities dropped the murder charge instead of retrying Adams, who moved to Columbus, Ohio.

"The film proves beyond a shadow of a doubt I did not receive a fair trial," he said. "It's like watching a bad dream or the last chapter of 'The Twilight Zone.'"

In his 3½ months of freedom, Adams has lectured and appeared on U.S. television shows like "60 Minutes." He is planning a speaking tour on college campuses this fall while he mulls job offers.

"This is a case and a story that must be held before the public. I want to live my life one day at a time and take the hurt out of my family's eyes as much as possible," Adams said in New York Thursday. The same day, he addressed a Cincinnati seminar on the penalty.

While he was in prison and the movie was being made, Adams accepted a nominal fee of \$10 and would have received payments Morris said would have been "in the neighborhood of six figures" if a TV movie or book were forthcoming.

Adams' suit, which he called an injunction, asked the courts to declare that he owns his story. His attorney, Randy Schaeffer, said a settlement has been reached but the papers have not been signed.

"I'm perfectly happy to discharge him from the agreement and give him the rights back if that's what he wishes," Morris said from his Cambridge, Massachusetts, home. "To say that the rights to his life story were purchased lock, stock and barrel for \$10 is not true. I didn't become involved in this movie to make money. I wanted to

right a terrible injustice in the courts."

Morris said no one was paid to appear in the \$1-million movie. He has appeared at a benefit for Adams in Ohio, and has donated the film for screenings. He says he still has \$100,000 in debt from the film.

"They talk about it like it's 'Batman' or 'Ghostbusters II.' I think it's unfortunate this happened," Morris said of the lawsuit.

For his part, Adams said he didn't want to appear ungrateful for Morris' part in freeing him from prison. But he wanted a legal declaration so there would be no dispute about who owns the story rights.

"It got blown out of proportion... just let my family have the right to say ya or nay on any future project. I'm not suing Errol Morris."

An act for an elephant

WILKES-BARRE, Pennsylvania (AP) — Alberto Zorpe, who tours the country with his Zoppe Circus Europa, got his big break when his family traded him for an elephant. Zorpe, a sixth-generation circus performer, was working with his family circus in Italy in 1947 when the ringling brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus asked him to take his bareback horse-riding act to the United States. His family was struggling after World War II and he did not want to leave them short-handed, so he agreed to leave on one condition — the American circus had to give his family an elephant. "I knew they had 52 elephants and we didn't have any, so I didn't want to leave my family without anything," the 67-year-old circus owner said as he prepared for an opening here. Forty-two years later, Zorpe, 67, tours with his own family circus in the United States and Canada.

Drawls baffle Texans

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas is so big that language differences have developed in different parts of the lone star state. Just like tourists from the northern United States who cannot decipher a Texan accent, sometimes even fellow Texans are unable understand each other. During debate in the Texas senate, a lawmaker from Western Texas happened to use the word "ostriches." A colleague from the southern part of the state, Carlos Truan, appeared puzzled. "I thought you said ostriches," he interrupted. "You know how we talk out West," said Bill Sims of San Angelo.

Governor turns non-speaking star

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP) — Florida Governor Bob Martinez's acting abilities are up for review in the latest James Bond movie, Licence to Kill. "My name is Martinez," Bob Martinez, the governor said in his best Bond imitation as he welcomed 300 guests for the Tallahassee premiere of the movie, which stars Timothy Dalton as Bond. Martinez's non-speaking cameo as a customs agent in an airport scene drew applause from the audience. That scene and much of the rest of the film were shot in Key West. The governor got the spot as a result of a 1987 trip to California to drum up movie business for Florida.

Global weather (major world cities)			
	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	10	50	18 Cloudy
ATHENS	22	72	36 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	30	86	37 99 Clear
BANGKOK	25	77	33 91 Clear
Buenos Aires	M	68	M M
CAIRO	21	70	35 95 Clear
CHICAGO	16	61	29 84 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	11	53	17 55 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	08	49	24 75 Cloudy
GENEVA	10	53	27 81 Clear
HONG KONG	28	82	30 90 Rain
ISTANBUL	17	62	28 92 Cloudy
LONDON	16	61	29 84 Clear
LOS ANGELES	18	64	30 86 Cloudy
MADRID	18	64	31 88 Clear
MECCA	29	84	34 94 Clear
MONTREAL	12	54	27 81 Cloudy
MOSCOW	16	61	24 75 Clear
NEW DELHI	28	78	35 95 Cloudy
NEW YORK	17	62	33 73 Cloudy
PARIS	14	57	28 84 Cloudy
ROME	18	64	29 82 Clear
STONEY	06	43	16 61 Cloudy
TOKYO	20	68	28 79 Cloudy
VIENNA	14	51	22 72 Clear

M indicates missing information.

